Depot Town Rag

Volume 19, Number 4 "All the news in one block in one month."

May 1996

100% FREE Rag Content

- Car Show
- Feng shui
- Cinco de Mayo
- Sidetrack award
- RR crackdown
- Public art *time*?

and other strictly local stuff . . .

A Publication of the DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. P.O. Box 970-235, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197-0804

The Starkweather Fountain: OK, where is it? We want it back!

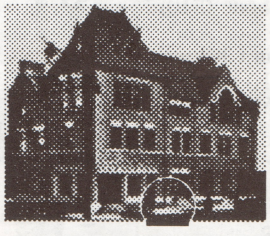
[Most of the digging for the Starkweather Fountain, so far, has gone on in the local archives, but there's always a chance the parts wil turn up in May 18's PRIDE Day clean-up. This report may help volunteers to identify the parts.]

If there ever was a time when Ypsilanti needed the Starkweather Fountain, it's right now. After stripping all that '50's kitsch from the facades of City Hall, just about anything to detract the eye from the ugliness uncovered would be an improvement.

St. Basil's

Some have said what we really need is another Ivan the Terrible to put former City Councilmember Barry LaRue's eyes out, but such a traditional Russian custom probably wouldn't be very popular in Ypsilanti, even in an election year. (When Moscow's St. Basil's Cathedral was completed, Czar Ivan called the architects to the Kremlin and put out their eyes so they could not create another for anyone else..)

Abandoning such primitivism for modern civility, local citizens wonder what we can do to call attention away from the denuded and marred façades of our local seat of government. (Historians claim the original bank wasn't so pretty; the stone was brought from the quarry under cover of darkness, and the quarry's location kept secret ever since, by local aesthetes in the interest of truth and beauty.)



City Hall: The original fountian site on Huron St. side of former Ypsilanti Savings Bank

There's a plan to paint fake detail on those recently uncovered walls to remind us of what was removed/damaged. We did that to a building in Depot Town for a couple of years and were able to fool most of the people of Ann Arbor into thinking it was real. They couldn't tell it from a stage set at the Power Center.

Others have suggested moving City Hall into either the old Ypsi Press building or the empty Smith's Furniture space, and then modifying the property at 1 South Huron into the flea-bag sleazy hotel that it's starting to look like. They want to put a blinking neon "HOTEL" sign on the corner and install old newspapers and dead geraniums in the upper windows.

James Thomas Mann, our loyal mole who digs up things older than most of the antiques found in our shops, suggests another ploy:

Replace or replicate the Starkweather Fountain at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Huron Street...

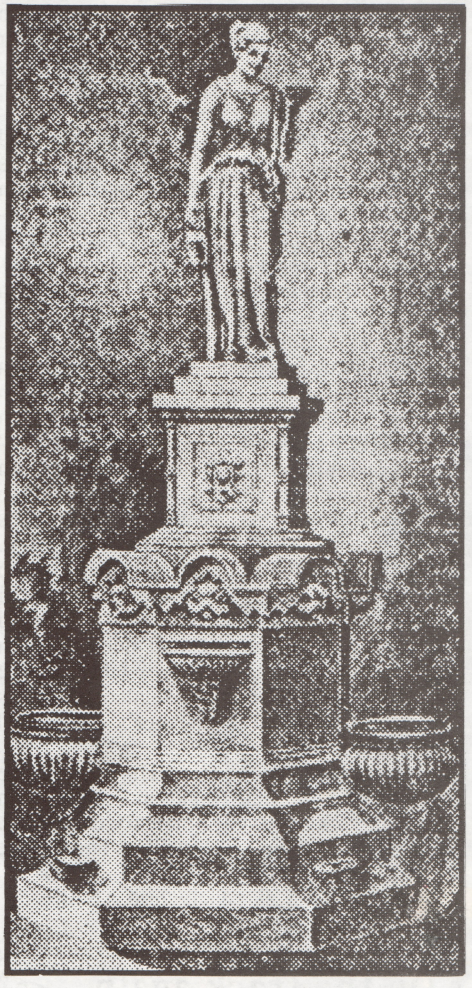
...and no one would ever notice that ugly building behind it again.

The trouble is, nobody knows where the fountain is. James has been following up leads for the last two years and definitely knows where it isn't: It's not in the DPW yard. It's not in one of David Kircher's basements. It's not stored in the carriage house of Old Town Hall. And, if it's in the storied tunnels of Depot Town, it's long since been buried there as they caved in over the years.

That just about leaves the Huron River. Since Ypsilantians have a long tradition of throwing things they don't want into the River, some think it's down there — along with that four-door Pontiac Firechief-2000 sedan that was never recovered from the flood that swept cars off Chapman's lot in 1978, the brick chimney that was blown off a factory in the cyclone of 1893 (also rumored to now be a brick-lined well in Canton), and the cast-iron columns and cornices of Victorian buildings in the district which were modified too early to become bullets for W.W.II. The Starkweather Fountain could certainly be in the Huron River, too.

If we ever find it and can reassemble the thing, it will be no less a wonder today than it proved to be in its original installation and location. Described at length in historical accounts of various times, it seems everyone was surprised at its uniqueness and originality.

Such a heady and boisterous design would certainly take the attention away from the current embarrassing vista of City Hall's exterior, but the Downtown Committee to Oppose Anything Aesthetic would probably declare it a traffic hazard and cover it with day-glo orange tape warning us to keep away, not to fall in, not to run in to it with our vehicles, and not to sue anyone over its obvious beauty of human form and lascivious nakedness.



WANTED!

Ypsilanti's historic Starkweather Fountain

Last seen on the corner of Michigan Avenue at Huron Street

C'mon, now! How could anybody 'lose' something like this? If you've noticed something that looks a lot like the above photo lurking around in your basement, please call officials of the Depot Town Associaton. Just think how nice this would look back on the street with a clock imbedded in its belly.

Get out your metal detector, lie detector, whatever it takes! Preservationists agree, no questions will be asked upon the return of the fountain. Just don't try to blame it on some former City Manager who has left town.

The Bluewater Michigan Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society announces:

Durand Railroad Days Flyer
Saturday & Sunday, May 18 & 19

Royal Oak 8:50A.M., Birmingham 8:30A.M., & Pontiac 8:00A.M. to Durand, Michigan

The *Railroad Days Flyer* returns! For the first time in ten years, the Chapter is able to offer a top-notch excursion from SE Michigan to the famous "Railroad Days" festival at Durand.

Durand is currently host to four railroads: AMTRAK, the Grand Trunk Western (Canadian national), the Tuscola & Saginaw Bay, and the Central Michigan. It is a major crossroads between Toronto and Chicago and between Detroit and the industry of Saginaw and Midland. The opening of the new Grand Trunk/ Canadian National Port Huron rail tunnel has dramatically increased all traffic through Durand.

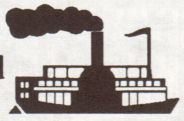
Major attractions at Railroad Days include Pere Marquette Engine #1225, live, in steam, a live steam show with operating steam traction engines, sawmill and hit-and-miss engines, a carnival right in the downtown streets, an antique car parade, and flea market. Steam Train Maury, King of the Hoboes, will be on hand to answer your questions. Downtown restaurants and shops will be open for dining and shopping.

This is an excursion where you will want to take the whole family. Accommodations will be on Bluewater's historic, restored railroad coaches with spacious seats and plenty of room to walk around. Snacks, sandwiches, coffee and soft drinks and railroad related souvenirs will be available in Bluewater's snack and souvenir car.

Premium class passengers will have exclusive use of the Global Star round-end observation car with snack and complimentary beverages. They also will have full breakfast and deluxe sandwich supper in Bluewater's dining car.

Coach/adult = $59, coach/child = $49, Premium Service = $89.

Two cruises on the *Diamond Belle* and Rails by Water on the *Diamond Queen*:



Sunday, July 21, Detroit to Port Huron, 8A.M.-9P.M.

Diamond Belle, Stroh River Place, Lake St. Clair, the Pointes, St. Clair Shores, Port Lambton, Sombra, Corunna, Sarnia, Algonac, Marine City, St. Clair. Dinner at St. Clair Inn. Canadian National and Pere Marquette rail ferry docks, Bluewater Bridge, Edison Inn, Huron Light Ship, Lake Huron. Harsen's Island, deli dinner on board, Stroh Place, Detroit. $79.

Saturday, July 27, 9A.M- Noon

Rails by Water on the *Diamond Queen*: Detroit's heavy industries: former facilities of CN and Wabash cross-river rail-car ferries, Zug Island's Delray Connecting Railroad, switching activities at Rouge Steel, action at Detroit Coal & Coke, and bridges which must be raised for us to pass. Rouge River: CSXT's Rougemere Yard. Detroit River: Boblo steamers, Ste. Clair and Columbia, Nicholson Terminal, Canadian shore, with expert commentary by expert photographer/videographer Ken Borg. Snack bar on board. $27.

Sunday, July 24, 9A.M. - 3 P.M,

Diamond Belle departs Stroh's River Place downriver to Lake Erie. Pass Rouge River outlet, Zug Island, Nicholson Terminal, Boblo boats, Wyandotte. Deli luncheon on board, Grosse Ile, Celeron Island, Grosse Ile yacht Club. Sugar Island, Ransom Olds Mansion, Tashmoo Dock and Powder House Island. Livingston Channel, Boblo Island, Lake Erie. Boise Light, Amherstburg, Fort Malden. Fighting Island, Lasalle, Ojibway, salt mine, major ship terminals, Ambassador Bridge, Windsor, casino, CN's historic railroad yard & turn table, Stroh's River Place. $60.

For information, please telephone (810) 399-7963.
To order: Bluewater Michigan Chapter, NRHS, P.O. Box 296, Royal Oak, MI 48068-0296 or call (800) 594-5162.

On the track again
Railroad cracking down on trespassers

Before Bill Treml retired from his post at the *Ann Arbor News*, he was able to track down Conrail rail inspector, Chris Miranda, for an article on March 22 ["Drive aims to keep people off tracks"]. A difficult person to find since the fiasco of accusing our editor of surreptitiously painting buildings for the railroad, Miranda is reported to be launching a new campaign to keep folks off the tracks and bridge that are the property, responsibility, and liability of the railroad.

Miranda checks the tracks from Dearborn to Jackson, 67 miles, in all, and used the *News* article to encourage everyone to keep off the tracks for their own good. Even without the possibility of a horrendous accident, such trespassing can result in a stiff fine and maybe an angry letter from Conrail's attorney in Delaware trying to stick your insurance company for some of their costs.

It could happen! (And it did.)

Keep off the tracks and property of the railroads and don't swim, dive, or fish from their bridges, either!

(So, sue us, Conrail. We helped to tell your story again! -ed)

People Restoring Image & Developing the Environment

Join your neighbors on Saturday, May 18 in Depot Town and all over the City and Township of Ypsilanti as we work together to get our neighborhoods ready for the summer season. Team captains will check in at the Key Bank at 9A.M, then join their teams in projects for the morning.

Complimentary lunch at noon in Riverside Park.

For more information, call the Ypsilanti PRIDE Hot Line:
482-7621.

Ypsilanti

PEOPLE RESTORING IMAGE & DEVELOPING THE ENVIRONMENT

Saturday, 18 May, 1996

Dateline: Depot Town

A Neighborhood Forgotten by Time (and Life and Newsweek)

Gardens to be planted again?

A local garden club is stirring the pot for interest in replicating Ypsi's infamous depot gardens which so shocked and disgusted famed landscape architects, the Olmsted Brothers in their 1913 study of this city.

One of the most outlandish designs remembered at that location was of a train going over a trestle bridge at Niagara Falls, complete with floral smoke coming out its smokestack. Should the garden club want to equal such a feat, here are some ideas for a Twenty-First Century floral display:

- Topiary dogs lifting their legs in relief
- Replicas of earlier train wrecks
- Day-glow plastic flowers spelling "Heart of the Historic District."
- General Demitrius Ypsilanti greeting today's Presidential candidates
- Space travel themes showing abandoned rocket ships to help our depot feel less forlorn
- Plywood cutouts of bums leaning, ladies weeding, kid peeing
- Yellow ribbons tied around old oak trees ("Woodsman, spare that yellow ribbon!")
- Floral renditions of the Tucker, Ace, Kaiser, Fraser, Henry J, Corvair, and other Ypsiautos for the 100th anniversary of the automobile industry in America. Maybe just a giant Oldsmobile station wagon done in carnations. Maybe a giant commemorative license plate? (Does anybody else find our state's new auto licenses disappointingly non-creative?)

Send your ideas for floral displays to *The Rag* for next month's issue.

Depot Town's favorite drink

The fancy coffees served in Depot Town today cause us to remind our regulars that coffee was not invented in this neighborhood; it's just served in many manifestation here. At Sidetrack Grill and Aubree's Saloon you can get coffee in several formats. So, too, at Cady's Grill and Miller's Ice Cream Parlor. But many are surprised to find coffee at Me 'N' My Sister's Country Store. Coffee and creative coffee alternatives are on sale at the Farmers' Market and at the Ypsilanti Food Co-op. Several of the barber and beauty shops on the block serve coffee to their customers.

There's lots of coffee down at the depot in Ypsi. But it certainly didn't start here. The first coffee bush was found growing wild in Ethiopia, Africa. One widely accepted legend states that an Ethiopian goatherder noticed his goats becoming frisky after eating the coffee berries and eventually tried them himself.

It's the American Way to drink coffee. After the "Boston Tea Party" in 1773, many Americans began drinking coffee as an expression of freedom.

In this district and many others, Civil War soldiers were given coffee beans with their primary rations when they checked out of the barracks which is now the Thompson Building.

The Doctor's Book of Home Remedies suggests coffee to relieve an asthma attack.

You can get it here:

Espresso uses a special combination of finely ground Arabica coffee beans which are firmly packed and extracted under pressure, resulting in a concentrated coffee flavor and aroma.

Cappuccino is espresso topped with dense foamed milk and sprinkled with cinnamon or cocoa powder. An additional flavor can be added if desired.

A **Latté** is espresso topped with steamed milk and milk foam. An additional flavor can be added if desired.

A **Mocha** is a rich, chocolate flavored Latté with a sweet whipped cream topping.

The official drink of the U.S. is coffee with the average adult drinking 27 gallons a year. Depot Town entrepreneurs make at least enough coffee a day to supply that coffee drinker.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op will be observing its 21st anniversary with a Cinco de Mayo celebration that will include a vegetarian chili cook-off, salsa tasting, and general merriment on Saturday, May 4.

Get a jump on your Cinco de Mayo revelry and join the fun as you compete in the Great Vegetarian Chili Cook-Off and conquer the Mexican gift basket that even General Zaragoza would have defended from the French. So, don the aprons, soak those beans, roast your chili peppers, and create your masterpieces! The cook-off begins at noon, but get there early. Taste the other chili recipes and vote for your favorite salsa. Don't forget to check out the super savings on specially marked products commemorating our 21st anniversary.

There is no charge for any of the day's events, but make sure to call the Co-op for the rules of the chili cook-off.

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op is located at 312 N. River Street in historic Depot Town. For more information, please call 483-1520.

Viva la Chili!!!

Announcing the opening of Sharon's Place, specializing in antiques and collectibles.

Tucked intside Treasures Boutique at 27 E. Cross, you'll find crystal, etched and pressed glass, dishes, jewelry, brass, linens, old books and magazines, Depression glass, pottery, silver, dolls, hats and dresses, advertising, and Mickey Mouse collectibles.

Sharons says both buyers and sellers are welcome, and encourages consignees, as well.

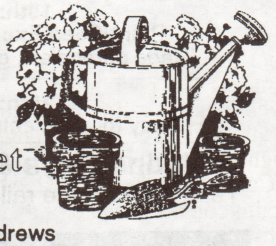
Her winter and spring hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 A.M. - 6 P.M., Saturday 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. Best to call in advance on Sundays, she notes.

Sidetrack cops newest award for value

Out of the thousands of eating establishments covered in the *1996 Zagat Survey of America's Top Restaurants*, Depot Town's Sidetrack Grill is one of the few honored.

Called "a good deal on food," Sidetrack placed eighth out of ten for best value in the state of Michigan.

Covering nearly a thousand restaurants in 35 cities in the U.S., the survey was published in a Detroit newspaper article before David and Linda French were even aware of the honor.



Views & Interviews with Market vendors

- Judy Andrews

Over the garden wall with Jai McFall

Now that it looks like Spring has finally decided to stick around, it's time to "let me introduce you to the pleasures of plants and their ability to delight and inspire," says Jai McFall, Master Gardener and Ypsilanti Farmers' Market vendor.

"Do you feel good every time you look out your window or walk out your back door? You should. A well designed yard should capture the look that will bring you happiness and joy. A successful landscape is in harmony with itself, its surroundings, and your tastes and needs," according to Jai.

Jai is in her fourth year here at the Market. She is an Ypsi native, now living in Milan where she owns and operates Jai's Landscape Design and Nursery, with 1-1/2 acres of display gardens consisting of three water gardens, three herb gardens, butterfly and hummingbird gardens, a pagoda and greenhouses. Her informal garden tours are well worth the visit.

Jai has an amazing array of plants and things she brings to Market on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Whether it be annuals, perennials, ground covers and vines, herbs, wildflowers, ornamental grasses, water fountains, wind chimes, bird houses and feeders, or just how-to advice in choosing plants, soil preparation, design and planting, she is more than happy to help answer your gardening questions.

Jai also carries a full line of Blue-Green Algae products to help maintain the health and vigor of the gardener.

Istalling *Feng shui* decor in the old railroad district

Preservationists love to point to artifacts in our block and tell how old they are, but has anyone bothered to authenticate the tradition of *feng shui* down here? Older than this railroad district by about one thousand, eight hundred and twelve years, *feng shui*, the ancient art of arranging rooms of furniture or buildings on their site, may be new to Ypsilanti, but not that new in China.

Phoenix Construction Company's Bill Kinley tells about putting up a building on the city's west side industrial park when the owner flew in his *feng shui* expert from China to situate the building's entry properly to the sun, the wind, and any available water source. No one even suspects that Benjamin Follett and Mark Norris bothered with such rituals when they decided to erect the first edifices down here in anticipation of the railroad.

Or did they? Those hardheaded early entrepreneurs were sensitive to so many stimuli, why wouldn't they be sensitized to wind, water, and light, as well? Walking under the Cross Street bridge and noticing the change in wind and air currents, today's strollers take for granted the phenomenon, but the surveyors who planned railroads often followed the flat bank of a river when laying out the coming right-of-way for tracks.

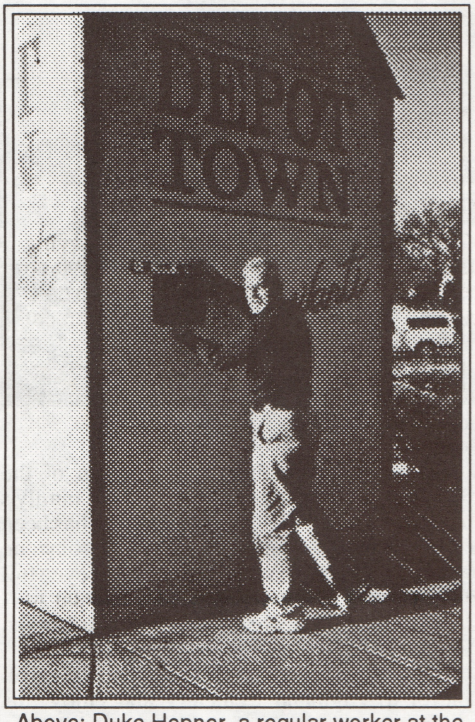
Certainly the wind created by today's passing trains couldn't be part of the *feng shui* philosophy; or could it?

North-facing front facades luxuriate in later summer when morning and evening sun strikes their crenulations for the first time in a year. Photographers revel in the last light of day as the rays cascade across the facades from Remington-Walker to Aubree's Saloon all year long. Such chiaroscuro of light and dark contrast is preferred to the light striking every level of fabricking in a flat and uniform tone of intensity.

With today's proposal to erect a town clock on the block, it seemed perfectly natural for Sidetrack's Linda French to suggest adding a fountain to the structure. That's very *feng shui* of her — and so is sitting in the Sidetrack's patio or at any of the district's sidewalk cafés and luxuriating in light and air. But notice which ones are popular at which times of day. That's the subliminal quality of *feng shui* controlling the built environment.

Look for Kristen M. Lagatree's "Feng Shui: Arranging Your Home to Change Your Life (Villard, $13.95) or Denise Linn's "Sacred Space: Clearing and Enhancing the Energy of Your Home," (Ballantine, $12) before you arrange the next park bench on the sidewalk or plant another tub of petunias on the porch. Then you may want to add a wind chime or a reflecting pool. Stick those plants in the window to filter the light across the shop and you're helping to create a *feng shui* Depot Town.

Up your Ypsi!



Above: Duke Hepner, a regular worker at the Ypsilanti Automobile Museum, installs the commemorative plaque on the Crossing Guard Tower. [Photo by Jack Miller]

Willow Run: Colossus of American Industry

- Warren Kidder

Author visits YDL

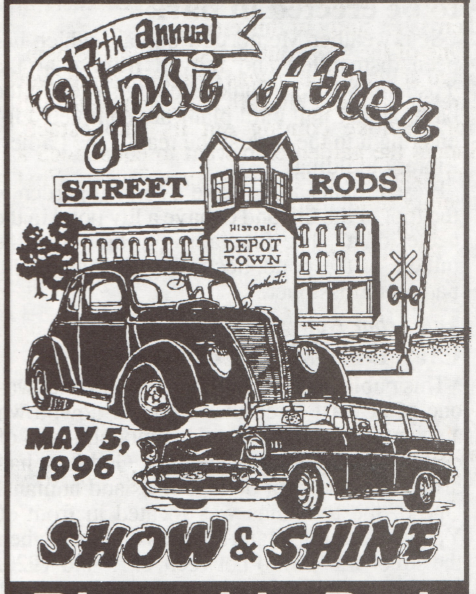
Sunday, May 5, Warren Kidder will be at the main library to autograph copies of his book, *Willow Run: Colossus of American Industry*. Come and join us for an afternoon of interesting conversation with this noted local historian.

Mr. Kidder will be visiting the library from 2:00 - 3:30 P.M. The library is located at 229 W. Michigan Ave. No reservations are required. Copies of the book will be available for purchase from the author.

For more information, please call 482-4110.

Sunday, 5 May

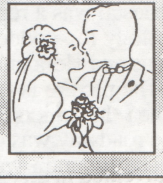
Cars in the Park



Riverside Park

DTA's Pancake Breakfast Sunday morning

Spring on Into
Standard Printing
35 E. Cross Street · Ypsilanti, Michigan
Located in Historic Depot Town
For All Your Printing Needs!
Birth Announcements
Wedding Invitations
Napkins
Matches
& More



Depot Town Association, Inc.

DTA: Firmly rooted in the past - with a clear view forward!

18 April 1996

- **Treasury report submitted**
- **No committee reports**

Unfinished Business:

Pancake Breakfast update: Linda French is to contact King Pancake to see if May 5 date is available. In addition, she is to see if they require a minimum of people to do the event. A subcommittee is to get together to do cost analysis for remaining ingredients for breakfast.

Bylaws: Postponed until next meeting. There was a question as to whether all changes were included in copies sent to members. Sandee French said she will check with Bill concerning this.

Next meeting: 16 May 1996 at 6P.M. at Renewed Interest Antiques.

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc. a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate. -Tom Dodd, editor

The Depot Town Association, Inc.
David French, president
P.O. Box 970-235
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197-0804

The Depot Town Rag
Tom Dodd, editor
1680 Cliffs Landing
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198-7305

The Starkweather Fountain [from page one]

Ypsilanti Daily Press, 7 April 1932

Memorial Fountain to be erected in park

Starkweather Memorial Fountain which has been dismantled and moved from near the Ypsilanti Savings Bank, is being stored in the barns at city hall until plans are completed for erecting it in the park at the rear of the Ladies' Library building.

Present plans are to have a sunken garden at the foot of the hill and to have a lily pond in the center of it. The fountain is to be put in the middle of the pond, according to John Gault, park commissioner.

Ann Arbor News, 1942

City Drinking Fountain

This public drinking fountain [page one] was one of at least three that stood in downtown Ypsilanti prior to 1900. This model, made of cast iron and graced by a Greek Goddess, had drinking vessels for dogs, horses and humans. One of the fountains was located in front of Ypsilanti Savings Bank and was removed when the street was paved between 1915 and 1920. City history buffs do not know what became of it but Foster Fletcher of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum believes it was used in Tourist Park on Catherine Street until the 1930s when it was probably junked.

Ypsilanti Press, 6 December 1965

A part of our heritage is water...

And through, water, health.

This latter sentiment was given practical expression here in a cast iron drinking fountain, shown in the picture, which used to stand on the east side of S. Huron St. near the Ypsilanti Savings Bank.

The somewhat ornate fountain was designed so that horses, people and dogs could tall slake their thirst from it. Surmounting the center pedestal was a replica of Hebes, in Greek mythology the goddess of youth, the daughter of Zeus and Hera and cup bearer of the gods.

The picture is from the horse and buggy era when the streets had cobblestone ditches and the roadway was dirt.

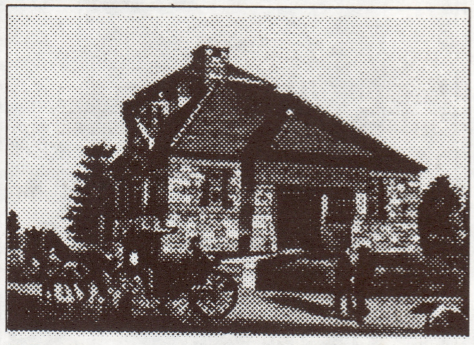
The fountain was given to the city by Mrs. Mary Starkweather who had inherited a fortune and who was generous in gifts to the city, including her home which for many years was used as the city library, Starkweather Hall on Eastern Michigan University campus and the chapel in Highland Cemetery.

She was especially interested in dogs and a statue of her husband's favorite pet was placed on the family lot in Highland Cemetery where it still stands.

The donor of the fountain also donated toward the building of the Methodist Church, helped the Baptist organ fund, contributed to S. Luke's Episcopal church house and piano and provided the state for the soldier's monument in Highland Cemetery.

Mrs. Starkweather was Mary Ann Newberry before her marriage to John Starkweather in 1839. Her brother was Michigan's famous congressman, John S. Newberry, and her father was Elihu Newberry, a merchant and farmer.

Mr. Starkweather was considered a capitalist and was a speculator in real estate.



Under close guard

Since the campaign for the return of the Starkweather Fountain has begun, the family's chapel (above) at Highland Cemetery has been put under a 24-hour watch. Why, if someone can steal a huge iron fountain (perhaps even full of water at the time!), then they'll steal anything; even a heavy sandstone Richardsonian Romanesque crypt.

Locals are encouraged to take another stroll north to Highland Cemetery and enjoy this outrageous example of architecture while it is still with us. Who knows? Somebody could have their eye on this building for installation in their basement family room as we speak!

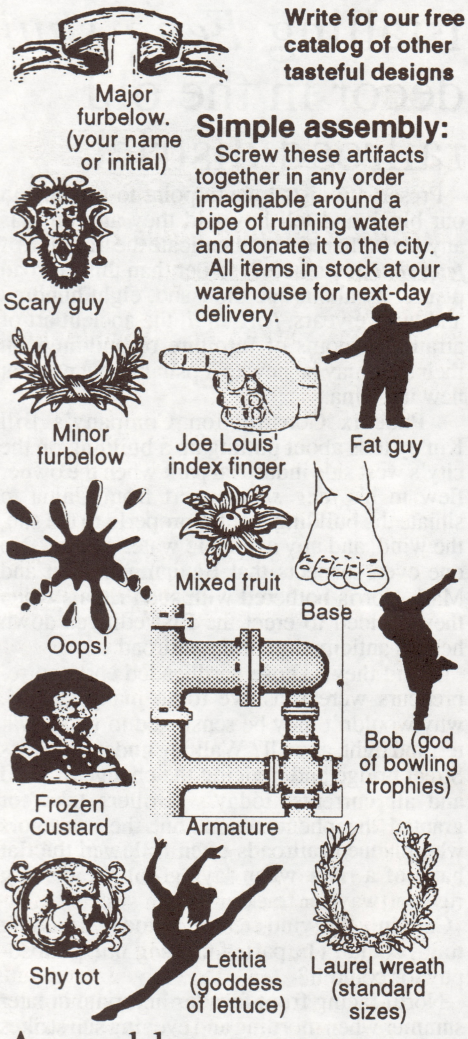
Re: The ubiquitous environmental impact study and inquiry:

The Starkweather Fountain ran, as all drinking fountains did when we were kids, all day and all night. And it ran all year 'round, except when it was below freezing. You just never knew when somebody might get thirsty. There was also a public restroom close by, but that's ancient history, isn't it? Today's environmentalists and public health minions will certainly have opinions on this arrangement, but don't worry about the amount of water 'wasted.'

Last year one of our most revered and respected neighbors died at the advanced age of 108. Before he passed away, he told the local press that he owed his good health and great longevity to "smoking good cigars, hanging around with beautiful women, and drinking 18 glasses of water every day of my life."

Newspapers are full of such sentiment, and the practicality of good cigars and beautiful women goes without question. But what about all that water? If those are full-sized glasses of water, then this bloated geezer swilled away more than two gallons a day. Now, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that, at two gallons a day for 108 years, that's well over 78,840 gallons of water in his glutinous lifetime. And that's not taking into account all his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who no doubt emulated his wasteful and consumptive example.

If we count his entire family who lived in the area, that water, alone, would keep the Starkweather Fountain spurting for the next two decades. (Of course, that's not figuring in those relations who might want to drink their water from a *new* fountain installation. Those numbers of gallons are in *our* favor.)

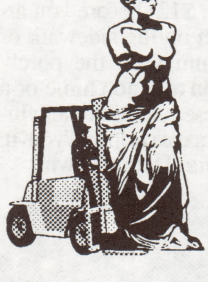

Write for our free catalog of other tasteful designs
Major furbelow. (your name or initial)
Simple assembly:
Screw these artifacts together in any order imaginable around a pipe of running water and donate it to the city.
All items in stock at our warehouse for next-day delivery.
Scary guy
Minor furbelow
Joe Louis' index finger
Fat guy
Mixed fruit
Oops!
Base
Bob (god of bowling trophies)
Frozen Custard
Armature
Shy tot
Letitia (goddess of lettuce)
Laurel wreath (standard sizes)

Assemble your own Starkweather Fountain

Anyone who has ever played with paper dolls or erector sets (no sexism intended), can cut out the elements [above] from the Company's nineteenth century order book and plan their own monument to whatever. Snap-together parts make for easy assembly.

HDC meeting

Cut them out and stack them as high as your Elmer's Glue or rubber cement will allow (we recommend the latter; it's more forgiving) and place it in your front window for the Historic District Commission to get accustomed to. Then just sit back and start waiting for the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs grant monies to start coming in.

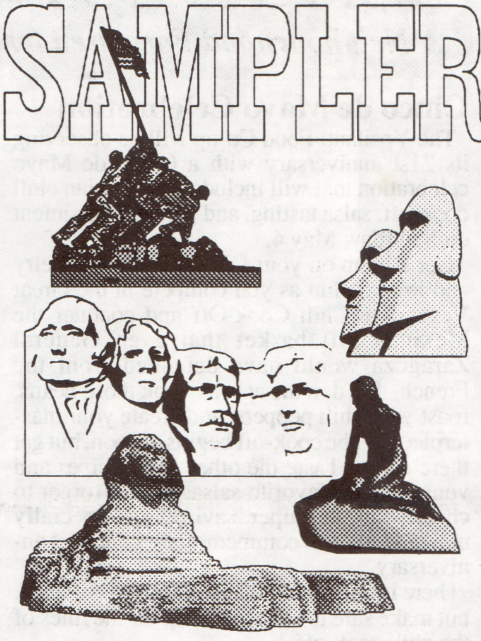


Finally, dig a big hole in the middle of the new Michigan Avenue boulevard and tell that guy with the front-loader where to put it.

Gregory L. Dodd
Attorney at Law
- Family Law
- Criminal Law
- Personal Injury
- Probate, Wills, Trusts

300 N. Huron, Ypsilanti MI 48197
313-487-2611

A Depot Town SAMPLER



Public art time?

Although this issue has taken some supercilious swings at the dated design of the long lost Starkweather Fountain, no one can deny the utter unforgettability of such public sculptures. Whether it's found at Arlington Cemetery, Easter Island, the Black Hills, Copenhagen harbor, or along the Nile in Egypt, we recognize and remember these images. In fact, many of us have snapshots of ourselves mugging in front of such ancient icons.

When we think of placing a sculpture in the streets of Ypsilanti, we wonder if it will fall in the cliche category one day, or if it will become a landmark in the memory of the populace.

With one of America's foremost sculptor's studio right here in Depot Town, many have suggested John Pappas just dump some of his rejected castings here alongside the street and some committee put a name on it and call it historic, important, or controversial. There's nothing like a piece of art to get the public ire going in letters to the editor of the dailies. Look at Picasso's red face in Chicago.

At the March meeting of the Depot Town Association, the possibility of just such a local installation was made and many were amazed at how no one had proposed such a work before: the placement of a 'town clock' along the sidewalks of the old depot district would certainly fit the style of the area, and would avoid any flap over whose dedication, what figure or event should be commemorated.

Watch for the 'Town Clock' campaign to gather momentum in the next months, much in the style that brought support for the 100-year-old caboose and the replication of the crossing guard tower. Yes, Depot Town can accommodate another visual statement in its environs and, yes, Depot Towners agree that the district needs another project to draw us together.

It's not Venus deMilo but, then, it's not Andy Warhol, either. A 'Town Clock' seems the perfect addition to this block.

Prepare to show your support.

Ypsilanti's FARMERS' MARKET
May

4th:
Mothers' Day Show!
Quality crafts, foods, flowers!
A freighthouse full of gifts for mom!

11th:
Flower Day '96
Bedding plants, annuals, herbs, hanging baskets/perennials, woldflowers

18th:
Plant/Seed Exchange Day
Trade perennials, ground cover...

25th:
Holiday foods, plants & crafts sales

Wednesdays & Saturdays
Year 'round in the railroad freighthouse

Up your Ypsi!

FROG ISLAND BREWING CO.
"It's the hops!"
Available in Depot Town!

Freeman Bunting Insurance Agency
107 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
Telephone: 482-4732
Betty Campbell
Nancy Petosky Jim Campbell
Mary Lou Linke Chuck Conklin
Security through insurance since 1921

DESIGNS ON YOU TREASURES
482-2010 • 27 East Cross

Me N My Sisters Country Store
13 East Cross • 487-0503
Hours: Tues-Wed-Thurs-Fri 10-6, Saturday 9-5, Sunday 12-5

Handmade Crafts 'N' More
Candles • Tinware • Lamps • Dried Florals
Baskets • Stained Glass • Country Furniture
Country Clay Figures • Dolls • Bears
Bunnies • Angels • Toys 'N' More

Come see what Nature sent us this month . . .
Ypsi Food Co-op

Sun 12-5; M,T,Th,F 10-8; Wed. 10-9; Sat. 9-8
312 N. RIVER ST. 483-1520

WORLD OF ROCKS
FUN
Beautiful Crystals and Minerals
Natural Rock Jewelry
EDUCATIONAL
Polished and raw specimens
Plus Amber, Lapis, Meteorites
Eggs, Spheres, Fossils and More
ENJOY
Bead Workshop on Wed & Sat!
At Ypsilanti Farmers' Market
Winter hours:
Wed 9-4:30, Sat. 7-3
• Ride for Bob, Gail Kornbluth •

Opportunity:

For the past six months, this publication has been supported by the merchants on these pages and the Depot Town Association, with no plans to continue beyond the June issue. Interested merchants and other parties may wish to attend the May 16 DTA meeting to make their support know for continuation into the district's twentieth year of publishing. -ed.